

Brief Review

Aging Services

Current Use of CX Funds:

- Approximately \$800,000 per year in CX funds support senior centers and programs, adult day programs, and miscellaneous other senior services.
- Most services are limited to residents of unincorporated King County, per the Aging funding policy.
- Other services target vulnerable elderly (age 75 or older, low-income, limited English speaking, minority status, disabled, living alone and/or geographically isolated).

Observations

Area Agency on Aging (administered by Seattle's Aging and Disability Services) has the lead role in providing services for vulnerable elderly in all areas of King County, and is the designated recipient of state and federal funding for the elderly in King County.

The County's Aging Program funding policy has not been reviewed since 1989. It is essential that this policy is reviewed over the next three years, in light of the changing numbers and needs of elderly residents, and the roles that others play to address those needs. Issues include:

- Currently, senior services are provided to unincorporated areas or small cities with populations of less than 12,000. Funding is discontinued if the city exceeds 12,000. The impact of this cap needs to be examined, along with a determination of the highest priority services the County should support.
- Currently, the County provides support to adult day services throughout the County. Whether this subsidy is appropriate given the *Framework Policies*, and for what segment of the population, needs to be explored. As part of this review, we need to examine the roles of others in providing support for this service.

Recommendation(s) for 2001-2003:

Undertake a review of the County's Aging Program funding policy with attention to both senior centers and adult day health.